

"Eriarwood"

Kiah B. Sewall Home
Mobile Street, 1/10 Mile.
North of Dauphin Street
Mobile, Alabama

HABS No. ALA-69

HABS
ALA,
49-MOBI,
66-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
Auburn, Alabama

"BRIARWOOD"
KIAH B. SEWALL HOME.
Mobile Street,
Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama.

ALA
HABS
ALA,
49-MOBI,
66-

Ownership:

Present Owner: Mrs. Minnie Boyles.

Previous Owners: Kiah B. Sewall.

Date of Erection: 1839.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Kiah B. Sewall.

Present Condition: Excellent.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Wood superstructure over first floor of brick; combined with fluted Colonial columns.

Other Existing Records:

SEE:

"HISTORIC HOMES OF OLD MOBILE"

By John F. Glennon & Rosemary Glennon.

Buildings sketched by Chici Glennon Lasley.

Additional Data: This charming dwelling on Mobile Street just north of Dauphin Way, has no duplicate anywhere in - Mobile, and is one of those chosen by local architects as outstanding examples of Gulf Coast Colonial architecture. In this house the typical substantial brick lower story, cemented walls and wooden superstructure have been combined with Colonial fluted columns, high-ceilinged rooms and the most unusual entrance and side hall of any dwelling in and around Mobile. Door knobs and key-hole keepers throughout the house are made of solid silver, and in the larger rooms are center pieces and wall decorations of plaster of paris - indicating that the building was erected by a man of means.

Kiah B. Sewall came from Maine to Mobile and built this home in 1839. It is said that during the Civil War he was a Union sympathizer and that at the beginning of hostilities he left Mobile rather hurriedly, leaving behind him this house - completely furnished, and that he never returned. Nothing in Mobile health registry records mentions the passing of Mr. Sewall, but other official records show that he died on August 16, 1865, leaving a widow and eight children, then living in Portland, Maine. In 1891, the property was purchased by Mrs. Minnie Boyles, wife of Andrew Jackson Boyles, and the Boyles family still occupies it.

Source of Material: John R. Glennon.
Mobile, Alabama.

Compiled by: Katherine Floyd.
Auburn, Alabama.
Approved: E. Walter Burkhardt, A.P.I.
Auburn, Alabama.
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TKW 8/1/37